

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-36 are pending.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this amendment. If the IDS is not in the PTO file when the examiner considers this amendment, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a duplicate copy may be provided.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Matsui (JP 2-221,771). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the seal assembly is dimensioned to fit within an adapter member for a bicycle bottom bracket containing an axle. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the support includes a laterally inwardly facing surface, a laterally outwardly facing surface, a radially inner portion and a radially outer portion, wherein the laterally inwardly facing surface faces laterally inwardly relative to the bicycle when the seal assembly is mounted to the bicycle, and wherein the outer seal and the inner seal are disposed on opposite lateral sides of the support.

Matsui discloses a sealing mechanism for a turning gear of a camera control device. The sealing mechanism includes a ring member (30) with a pair of seals (33a) and (33b) concentrically disposed on the same side of the ring member (30). The sealing mechanism certainly is not dimensioned to fit within an adapter member for a bicycle bottom bracket containing an axle. Furthermore, the Matsui seal configuration would not prevent contaminants from entering the space between the mount plate (1a) and the ring member (30) because it does not have the seal configuration recited in claim 1. Thus, Matsui neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 1.

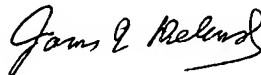
Claims 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui in view of Lin (US 5,762,426). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, Matsui is not proper prior art for this obviousness inquiry. The subject matter of the Matsuo patent (camera control devices) is not in the same field as the Lin patent (bicycling devices). Furthermore, the problem addressed by the Matsuo patent (the ability to use a motorized camera support in either an airtight or a non-airtight environment) is not relevant to the problem addressed by the Lin patent (providing a structure that allows the bearing assembly of a bottom bracket to be assembled without requiring different size bearing support flanges on the axle).

Furthermore, even if there was a valid reason to include Matsui in the pool of available prior art, there is no independent suggestion to combine the teachings of Matsui and Lin. Lin does not recognize any desire to provide further sealing of the bottom bracket assembly. Such a motivation is found only in the applicant's disclosure, and that is an improper basis for making a rejection.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Deland
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 69
Klamath River, California 96050
(530) 465-2430